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Leaflet Regarding Rules of Publication.—CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE has prepared a leaflet explaining its rules regarding publication. This leaflet gives suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts and of illustrations. It is suggested that contributors to this Journal write to its office requesting a copy of this leaflet.

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EDITORIALS†

"M" DAY: MEDICAL MOBILIZATION DAY

Action of the American Medical Association in New York.—In New York, at this year's annual session of the American Medical Association, on June 11, the House of Delegates of that national organization pledged the resources of the medical profession in full support of the military forces of the United States. So once again, within the brief span of one-quarter of a century, the making of preparations for a medical mobilization—a new "M" Day—will be experienced by more than one hundred thousand physicians. The offer of professional services, tendered on their behalf by the American Medical Association, will permit the Government to practically "enlist, distribute and regulate them (the medical profession) in time of war."

* * *

Important Rôle of the Medical Profession in Military Forces.—In the World War of 1914-1918 the medical profession rendered yeoman service of great value, and in the plans now under consideration by the Government the whole-hearted aid of physician-citizens is more than ever important. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that, in large measure, the efficiency of combat units depends upon the medical personnel of the army, navy and air forces; who, from the standpoint of preventive medicine, are called upon to keep the soldiers healthy and fit for service, through supervision of sanitation and food and other supplies, and also by the application of curative measures to conserve life, and to restore sick and injured soldiers and sailors for their duties as promptly as possible. Because of many factors, the procedures and methods so much in constant use in civil practice take on liberal modifications or radical changes, in order to make them adaptable and useful to military establishments.

* * *

Every Physician Should Be Alert in These Matters.—Since policies already approved by the constituted authorities of our country are bringing into being a military establishment different from any that has ever existed in the United States

† Editorials on subjects of scientific and clinical interest, contributed by members of the California Medical Association, are printed in the Editorial Comment column which follows.

in the past, and because services of the medical profession are of vital importance to the armed forces, it behooves every physician promptly to prepare himself for the part he may be called upon to take in these new responsibilities which face him in both his civil and professional capacities.

The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, in its reports of the proceedings of the national House of Delegates, will give additional information concerning the actions recently taken in New York.* The Council of the California Medical Association meets on June 29, when this and related matters will receive their careful consideration. In the meantime, members of the Association should give careful thought to these issues that, as each week passes by, are thrusting themselves before the people of America with increasing importance and insistence. In all this, the record of the medical profession must not only be above reproach, but of a nature to let every physician take pride therein. Indeed, here is an opportunity that may offer possibilities for the early reestablishment of the prestige of the medical profession, which, in recent years, has been so grossly and unjustly assaulted by forces aligned with certain groups militantly engaged in efforts to inflict Bismarckian compulsory health systems on some of the states of the Union.

CALIFORNIA POSTGRADUATE ACTIVITIES

Agitation for Postgraduate Conference Bringing Results.—During the past several years, the California Medical Association Committee on Postgraduate Activities has striven to enthuse the component county societies with a desire to institute postgraduate conferences in their respective districts, and in 1939 these efforts were rewarded with considerable success. However, the responses received on participation in the postgraduate programs have been far from satisfactory. Gratifying, however, has been the knowledge that county units, whose members have taken up the work in earnest, have become its staunchest supporters. This desire for repeat courses is in accord with the experience of postgraduate committees in other states, and is a tribute to the value of such conferences.

* * *

Basic Problems in Postgraduate Conferences. California covers an extensive geographical area, with population centers scattered in much more irregular fashion than in some of the states east of the Mississippi, where postgraduate courses have been promoted. On that account, transportation expenses of guest speakers are considerably higher, a financial fact that cannot be evaded by either the State or local postgraduate committees.

In the inauguration of clinical conferences, one of the real difficulties is to secure an enthusiastic,

hard-working and able committeeman, or committee, who will accept the responsibility of making local arrangements, and of being constantly on the job until the outlined program has been carried through in successful fashion.

The personnel of the local committee on postgraduate, clinical, or refresher courses, therefore, is an item of importance. The chairman of such a committee must be a physician who is willing to give wholeheartedly of his time and effort, not only to indicate what guest speakers and courses are desired, but also to create real interest in, and attendance at, all meetings.

* * *

Plans for Fall Clinical Conferences Should Be Made.—If, then, postgraduate conferences are to be carried through with success during the coming autumn, plans should be taken up at the present time, so that arrangements mutually satisfactory to all parties interested may be gotten into form.

Component county societies, through their officers or committees on postgraduate work, should feel free to communicate with the headquarters office of the Association, indicating wishes regarding prospective courses to be given during the fall and winter months.

* * *

Postgraduate Conferences in Metropolitan Centers.—Concerning conferences in the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles, the suggestion has been made that twice a year, in each of the two cities, a one or two-day refresher course might be offered, with clinical work and presentation of patients in the respective county hospitals. Such courses could be conducted under the auspices of the attending staffs of the four medical schools, the two institutions in each city alternating in the giving of spring and fall courses. Such an arrangement—which in modified form has been put in operation elsewhere—creates an opportunity for physicians who have neither the time nor interest to register in the annual sessions of the State Medical Association, and gives such members an opportunity to meet one another and to profit from attendance at the clinical presentations. It has been pointed out that the use of the teaching facilities of county hospitals in this manner will fulfill a need of physicians in both the local metropolitan areas and in adjacent or more distant parts of the State.

The California Medical Association Committee on Postgraduate Activities, which may be addressed through the central office of the Association, at 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, will be happy to receive comments on any of these matters.

PROPOSED RESEARCH BY THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Legislation Worthy of Approval.—Recently submitted to the United States Senate was a proposed law (S. 3914) which would “impose additional duties upon the United States Public Health

* To carry out the instructions of the House of Delegates, a Committee on “Medical Preparedness” was appointed. The Pacific States are represented thereon by Dr. Charles A. Dukes of Oakland, and Dr. John H. O’Shea of Spokane, Washington. Further information in regard thereto may be found in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, June 22, 1940, on page 2466.